

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 48 are pending in the subject patent application. It should be noted that the Examiner and the undersigned have been proceeding on the belief that only claims 1 through 41 were pending; however, claims 42 through 48 were added by Preliminary Amendment on January 7, 2004, and the required fee was paid at that time. The Examiner is respectfully requested to inform the undersigned of any desired information relative to the Preliminary Amendment. Since the Preliminary Amendment was filed within three months of the filing date of this application, claims 42 through 48 were duly entered in the case at that time, and they should have been examined. The fact that the examination has not addressed claims 42 through 48 has escaped the notice of the undersigned until now, and the undersigned apologizes for any inconvenience this oversight may cause. It should also be noted, however, that claims 42 through 48 have always depended upon claim 6, which has been allowed.

Claims 1 through 26 have, in fact, been allowed. Claims 27 through 41 have been withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner. Accordingly, claims 27 through 36 have been amended to depend either directly or indirectly upon claim 19, which has been allowed. Claims 37 through 41 have been canceled without prejudice. A divisional application will be filed on claims 37 through 41.

Discussion of Amendments to the Claims

Since claim 27 has been amended to depend upon claim 19, which has been allowed, this renders claim 27 allowable. Since claims 28 through 36 depend either directly or indirectly upon claim 27, they are also allowable. Reconsideration of these claims is respectfully requested in view of this amendment.

Since claims 37 through 41 have been canceled, only allowed claims (1 through 26) and allowable claims (27 through 36 and 42 through 48) remain in the case.

The Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 through 36 and 42 through 48 are patentable, and that the application is now in a condition for allowance. An early Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (337)385-2701 for any reason that would advance the instant application to issue.

Dated this 26th day of June, 2007.

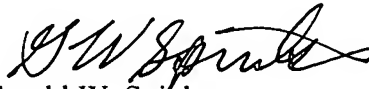
Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR § 1.8

I hereby certify that this Response to Office Action is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria VA 22313-1450, on this, the 26th day of June, 2007.



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51-70626.roa